

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08

CEA-02 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 H-03 DRC-01

/158 W

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R 090921Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5815

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, TH

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ALIEN BUSINESS DECREE

1. LOCAL BANGKOK PRESS REPORTED AUGUST 7 THAT ON PREVIOUS DAY CABINET HAD APPROVED PROPOSAL BY COMMERCE MINISTRY TO AMEND ALIEN BUSINESS DECREE BY ADDING TWO PROFESSIONS, CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, TO CATEGORY - OF ABD, WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BE SUBMITTED TO NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION SOON. FOREIGN COMPANIES INCLUDED IN CATEGORY A ARE REQUIRED TO ACQUIRE MAJORITY THAI OWNERSHIP BY NOVEMBER 1974 OR GO OUT OF BUSINESS. THESE TWO PROFESSIONS ARE CURRENTLY COVERED BY "OTHER SERVICES" IN CATEGORY C, WHERE MAIN RESTRICTION IS ON RATE OF GROWTH.

2. MOST CONCERNED AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN WITH WHOM EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED REPORT, WHILE CRITICAL OF APPARENT RETROACTIVE NATURE OF THIS PROPOSAL, ARE MAINTAINING A LOW POSTURE, AT LEAST UNTIL IT BECOMES MORE CLEAR WHAT PROPOSAL MEANS, I.E., WHAT ABOUT COMPANIES WHICH ARE BASICALLY CONSULTING

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ENGINEERS BUT ALSO DO CIVIL ENGINEERING WORK, HOW WOULD IT

AFFECT COMPANIES WHICH HAVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS,  
ETS. SOME HAVE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EMBASSY WILL NOT  
REGISTER PROTEST, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING.

3. EMBASSY COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, DURING VISIT BY OPIC  
PRESIDENT MAYS ON BOARD OF INVESTMENT SECRETARY GENERAL  
SOMPHON AUGUST 8, DID MENTION THESE PRESS REPORTS. SOM-  
PHON, WHILE DEFENDING PRINCIPLE OF RESERVING MAJORITY  
THAI OWNERSHIP IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES, SAID HE PERSONALLY  
DISAGREED WITH THIS PARTICULAR PROPOSAL, AND HAD SENT  
LETTER TO "APPROPRIATE GOVT AGENCY" SAYING SO. TREATY OF  
AMITY AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WILL ALSO PREVENT, AT LEAST  
UNTIL 1978, APPLICATION OF PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS TO AMERICAN  
COMPANIES.  
KINTNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Subject:** PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ALIEN BUSINESS DECREE  
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